

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An authentication server for automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate a user of a terminal in order to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of a service ~~server-servers~~ of providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, the authentication server comprising:

a memory for storing correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

a reception arrangement for receiving from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers.

a selector arrangement for selecting an authentication identifier in [[a]]said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network,

an authenticator arrangement for authenticating said user by using an authentication associated with said selected authentication identifier, and

a redirection arrangement for redirecting said connection with said terminal to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has been authenticated.

2. (Currently amended) The authentication server according to claim 1, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of an authentication security level in corresponding relationship to said selected provider identifier.

3. (Currently amended) The authentication server according to claim 1, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of authentication rules associated with said selected provider identifier and applied to at least an authentication security level corresponding to at least one of said selected provider identifier and said terminal type and said communication network type.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The authentication server according to claim 1, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a list of services identified by service identifiers in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a service identifier of a service selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function also of said selected service identifier.

6. (Currently amended) The authentication server according to claim 1, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a list of provider identifiers read in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a provider identifier selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier as a function of said selected provider identifier.

7. (Currently amended) The authentication server according to claim 1, wherein, if said user has been authenticated, the authenticator arrangement is arranged to transmit to said service server said terminal type, said communication network type, said transmitted service identifier, and a security level of the authentication read in said memory and associated with said selected authentication identifier.

8. (Previously presented) The authentication server according to claim 1, further comprising two separate servers respectively including said selector arrangement and said authenticator arrangement.

9. (Currently amended) A method in an authentication server of automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate a user of a terminal to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of service servers of [[a]] providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, the method comprising:

-storing in a memory correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

-receiving from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers,

-selecting an authentication identifier in [[a]]said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network, and

-authenticating said user by an authentication associated with said selected authentication identifier, and

-redirecting said connection with said terminal to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has been authenticated.

10. (Currently amended) A physical information medium or storage device adapted to be loaded into and executed by an authentication server, the medium or storage device including computer readable coded indicia representing a program for enabling the authentication server to automatically select one of a plurality of authentications respectively identified by authentication identifiers in order to authenticate a user of a terminal in order to authorize said user to access a service dispensed by one of service servers of providers identified respectively by provider identifiers via a communication network, said program including program instructions for enabling the authentication server to:

-store in a memory correspondences between authentication identifiers, provider identifiers, types of terminal and types of communication network,

-receive from said terminal a provider identifier selected in said terminal in response to a connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server without any prior connection between said user terminal and one of said service servers.

- select an authentication identifier in [[a]]said memory as a function of said selected provider identifier and the type of at least one of said terminal and said communication network,

- authenticate said user by an authentication associated with said authentication identifier, and

-redirect said connection with said terminal to a service server corresponding to said selected provider identifier if said user has been authenticated.

11. (Currently amended) An authentication server arrangement including a receiver arrangement, selector arrangement, correspondence memory, authenticator arrangement and connector redirector arrangement for respectively performing the receiving, selecting, authenticating and redirecting ~~connection~~-steps of claim 9.

12. (Currently amended) The authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of an authentication security level in corresponding relationship to said selected provider identifier.

13. (Currently amended) The authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to select said authentication identifier in said memory as a function of authentication rules associated with said selected provider identifier and applied to at least an authentication security level corresponding to at least one of said selected provider identifier and said terminal type and said communication network type.

14. (Currently amended) The authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a list of services identified by service identifiers in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a service identifier of a service selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier as a function also of said selected service identifier.

15. (Currently amended) The authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said selector arrangement is arranged to transmit to said terminal a list of provider identifiers read in said memory in response to said connection set up between said user terminal and said authentication server, and said user terminal is arranged to transmit to said selector arrangement a provider identifier selected by said user in the transmitted list in order for said selector arrangement to select said authentication identifier as a function of said selected provider identifier.

16. (Currently amended) The authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein, if said user has been authenticated, the authentication server is arranged to transmit to said service server said terminal type, said communication network type, said transmitted service identifier, and a security level of the authentication read in said memory and associated with said selected authentication identifier.

17. (Previously presented) An authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the authentication server arrangement comprises two separate servers respectively including said selector arrangement and said authenticator arrangement.

18. (Currently amended) An authentication server arrangement according to claim 11, wherein there is no connection between the user terminal and the service

~~authentication-server during the receiving, selecting, and authenticating-and redirecting steps.~~

19. (Currently amended) An authentication server arrangement according to claim 1, wherein there is no connection between the user terminal and the ~~authentication-service_server during the receiving from said terminal a provider identifier, selecting an authentication identifier, and authenticating said user and redirecting steps.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein there is no connection between the user terminal and the ~~authentication-service~~ server during the receiving, selecting, ~~and authenticating and redirecting steps.~~